MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your response?

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : It is mentioned in Article 25 of the Constitution that :-

> "(2) Nothing in this article shall affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the State from making any law -
>
> (a) regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity...
>
> (b) providing for social welfare and reform..."

[Translation]

This is clearcut, It has been clearly mentioned in Article 26. Article 44 is also clear. In Sarla Mudgal Case, it was said that the Government will bring the Bill, I have also raised a question about it earlier, I am now compelled to bring this Bill. I have raised a question in the Lok Sabha on 2nd August 1996 to have an Uniform Code for all the citizens. This matter was finally decided by Justice Sahia and Kuldeep Singh Ji.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can put all these things lateron.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Article 25(2) is clear about it, I do not agree with the hon'ble member. and leave be granted to me to introduce this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for uniform marriage and divorce law for all citizens for the country."

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.57½ hrs.

HINDU MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 5, etc.)

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1995.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dated 20-12-96.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955."

The motion was adopted.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : I introduce the Bill.

15.58½ hrs.

FOREST (CONSERVATION) AMENDMENT BILL*

(Amendment of Section 2, etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservations) Act, 1980.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.00 hrs.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall take up further consideration on this Bill. Shri Hannan Mollah to speak.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank Shri Reddy for bringing in this Private Members' Bill for providing free and compulsory education for all children of this country. It is an avowed dream since Independence. Our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had announced that he would provide education to all the children. Accordingly, people had their aspiration that it would be fulfilled in course of time.

In our Constitution also, in the Chapter on Directive Principles it has been stated that within ten years, this

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dated 20-12-96

promise will be fulfilled and compulsory education up to the age of 14 years will be provided. Now we are all aware that we are going to observe the fiftieth anniversary of our Independence this year. But we are still for behind the dream of seeing that all Indians can read and write and they are not forced to put their left thumb impression on the paper. We want to rescue the people from the drudgery of LTI and we want to bring them in the light of education. but still his dream is yet to be fulfilled.

Now in this Bill, the hon. Member has proposed that the Government should make arrangement for providing free and compulsory education in this country. This new United Front Government in their Common Minimum Programme have promised that they will consider the proposal of making education a Fundamental Right. And accordingly, they have appointed certain Committees to discuss the matter. Now I demand that in this fiftieth anniversary of our Independence, if the United Front Government can fulfil this promise, it will be a befitting observation of this anniversary. The hon. Minister of HRD is here. I request him to announce in this Session itself that in the coming Budget Session, they will be able to bring forward the Bill making education a Fundamental Right. This is my request.

You know, even after fifty years of Independence, thee are about three to four lakh children who are working as child labour. We have raised the issue on many occasions. You have also raised it many times in this House about the plight of these children as to how the children of our country who are to go to the school & play ground, are forced to work in shops as domestic servants and how they facing the atrocities and torture by their employers. We know the fate of the children working in the fire works factories how they are dying in several accidents.

We know the fate of the children in match factories in Sivakasi. We know the fate of the children in the carpet making industry and we know the fate of the children in the stone cutting industries. They are forced to do all these things.

In that situation, it will be a befitting on the occasion of Fiftieth Anniversary of our Independence, if the Government of India make some scheme for rescuing the child labour from the place of drudgery and give them the opportunity to go to school.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak in brief. Three more members have to speak after you. You get three-four minutes time. They also have to speak and the Government have to give reply. If four hours time is taken for only one Bill then other Bill remain undiscussed. Please speak precisely and to the point.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, I am concluding.

The second important factor in this regard is the 'literacy campaigning programmes'. I hope that the literacy campaigning programmes will be taken up with all seriousness. Though the money is being spent for these literacy campaigning programmes but the results are not as satisfactory as it should have been. So, the proper monitoring of these literacy programmes should be taken up. In that direction, I will be very much thankful if the Government announces that on the occasion of Fiftieth Anniversary of our Independence, Education will be declared as a 'fundamental right'

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KALPANATH RAI (Ghosi) : I rise to support this bill. If we want to strengthen democracy in this country then we need to provide uniform education. Schools in villages and municipality schools are different. The teachers and other activities in these schools are also different. Third type of schools and colleges are of Doon and Mussoorie category. Their education teachers, their salaries and expenditure on education all are different and better. Fourth type of schools are those schools where children come by cars in school. These are very expensive schools and more than Rs. ten thousand per month is spent on children's education. The education provided to them is different and other activities in these schools are also different from other type of schools. Thus different type of education is being provided in this country. It is a welcome step to provide uniform compulsory education to all. It is also good to provide free compulsory education to children after fifty years of Independence and this provision must be made. I want that uniform education should be provided in the entire country.

Either it is plain or hilly region, Calcutta or Mumbai, there should be same type of schools, same books, same salaries of teachers only than democracy can be saved in this country.

How mental development of the Student who is studying in a village school where classes are held under tree and other students of Doon School can be compared?

It will not be expensive but there is lack of strong will power, that is why same type of schools have not been set up in the country during the last fifty years. I welcome this Bill and would like to say that children should be provided free and compulsory education in the entire country. The Government should make arrangements in this regard. To provide uniform education to all is necessary in this country. Otherwise our country, democracy and language will not get

strengthened and ultimate goal of independence will not be fulfilled.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar) : Sir, this is being discussed in this House since morning that leader of Congress Party ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. You are taking Private Members time.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : The aim of this Bill, moved by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy is to provide free and compulsory education to all children upto senior secondary level in the whole country. The hon. Kalpnath Rai ji is a senior member of this House. He has supported compulsory primary education but to provide free and compulsory education upto senior secondary level is main objective of this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : In senior secondary level, primary and secondary level are also covered.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Even after so many years of independence crores of houses and children are illiterate. Their world is different from literate world. This House must pass a resolution is this regard. We have passed this resolution that we the people of India having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign socialist secular Democratic Republic and hereby adopt this constitution. A provision has been made therein that we will achieve this goal within ten years of implementation of the constitution. So many years have lapsed but the Lok Sabha is not concerned about it. I would like to submit that today is the last day of this session. We must pass the resolution thereby we will propogate literacy and fight against illiteracy. The states which are lagging behind in implementation of illiteracy Eradication Programme there it should be implemented with all determination, which is necessary for unity and integrity of the country. We should perform our duty by providing education to those who are illiterate and superstitious.

With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on that occassion when the Lok Sabha...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say to close traditional schools, colleges and universities for one-two years and implement programme to provide compulsory and free primary education. All teaches, students, public representatives, M.L.A.s and M.P.s should be involved in this task.

It will be a great service to the nation. The objective of the constitution, from which we learn everything, will be preserved through it.

With these words I would like to request the chair that such a resolution must be passed that no house and village remain illiterate. The torch of literacy must be lit everywhere. We should resolve to remove illiteracy from India.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to start with this sanskrit quotation -"Nahim Pavitram Gyanan Sadrishyam". Its meaning in English is

[English]

'Nothing is more sacred then Knowledge.'

[Translation]

This programme should not be merely to provide education. It is mentioned on page 8 of the common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government.

[English]

> "The right to free and compulsory elementary education shall be made a fundamental right and enforced through suitable statutory measures."

[Translation]

Further it is mentioned :-

[English]

Special programmes will also be launched to take care of children and the disabled to eradicate child labour in all occupations in industries.'

[Translation]

I rise to support the Private Members Resolution introduced by the hon. Member. When we talk about fundamental rights, we should pass this Bill. The points regarding education have been mentioned in Article 41 and further in Article 238. Every Government have chalked out such programmes but we have to make qualitative improvements in it only than success can be achieved. The aim of the education should be to make good citizens and inculcate national spirit. The youth of the country are confused in, this corrupt scenario, and work of nation building is not being done. So qualitative improvement alongwith quantitative improvement should be considered therein, and for this qualified teachers must imbibe good habits and manners in children. We should not forget our culture. We have our culture and cultural heritage alongwith secularism. If we do not tell our children about great persons like Chandragupta Maurya, Maharana Pratap and Vikramaditya from Childhood, they will not be able to learn our culture. The work of nation building can not be done without providing good education to children. The people of all parties either ruling party or opposition should support this Bill and get it passed. I conclude witn these words.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : We also want to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Much time has already been taken. There is no time for everyone to speak. You may please speak on next Bill.

AN HON. MEMBER : This is a Bill on the subject of my liking.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, but time of five hours for this Bill is over now. Its time has been extended again and again.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Please give two minutes time to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All right, please speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Sir, I would like to make only two-three points. This Bill is regarding free and compulsory education upto senior secondary level. We have talked about compulsory and free education in the constitution also but people in villages are not able to send their children to schools due to poverty. We can not make education compulsory until we will not provide job oriented education and to make aware poor people of the country about it. So we must try to provide job oriented education.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second point I would like to make that in five lakh villages of India, even schools have not been opened till now. I am talking about primary schools. If schools are there, these are at the distance of four-five kilometers. How small children will attend these schools in rainy season by crossing rivers and rivulets. Therefore, the dream of compulsory and free education can not be achieved until school in every village, whether its population is 200, 300 or 400, will not be set up. Sir, we have to launch a campaign to make primary education compulsory and merely including this provision in the constitution will not serve any purpose. The Government should launch a campaign in this regard and make aware children to attend schools to fulfil our resolve regarding compulsory education.

SHRI P. NAMGAYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I support the Bill introduced by Shri T. Subbarami Reddy regarding compulsory education...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you were interested you should have participated in this discussion earlier. You have expressed your views on this bill earlier also, this Bill is being discussed since long.

SHRI P. NAMGAYAL : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support this Bill I feel that this Bill is necessary, particularly for children of hilly and tribal areas because there are scattered population and villages are small. The schools are not situated in small villages. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the Right to Education should be given to children of those villages where two-three families are residing and a hostel may be set up at centrally, located place for such children and the Government should make arrangements for providing them free education. In big villages, schools and teachers are available but in tribal and hilly areas schools are not set up. Therefore, I would suggest the Government to formulate a rule to set up hostel in centrally located place for children of those areas where schools can not be set up and to make arrangements to provide them education. I conclude with these words.

*SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (Chengalpatu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy to take part in the discussion on the Bill that has been introduced in this House to provide compulsory education to all the children of the country. At least after 50 years of independence we now think in terms of providing compulsory education and it is heartening to note the gesture of the mover of this Bill. As far as Tamil Nadu in concerned, we have pioneered this project. As early as 1950, we introduced free mid day meal scheme in all the primary schools to ensure full attendance and compulsory education. We have been giving priority to education and we have always been supported by the Centre in this regard. The Union Government with various schemes have always been providing funds with which we could take care of our children in the rural areas giving them education and health care. The standard of education in Tamil Nadu is better when compared to several other States.

During the pre-independence era the autocratic feudal lords and well to do men of the rural areas were depriving the poor from having access to education and upward social mobility. I feel very happy to speak on this Bill which seeks to provide compulsory education to all the children of the country. It is also noteworthy that the Bill lays stress on free education. It is not enough to get educated upto class V or completing the middle school level studying Class VI, VII and VIII. It is no use to study upto class VIII and leave it at that. So I would like to demand compulsory education upto degree level. Then alone we can have a meaningful system of education. Then alone we can bring out people who will be employable. Union Government should take note of this. Now we are in the modern computer age. Computer Education should form part of the academic curriculum.

Good education in the modern parlance would mean education with computer orientation. Only with such education our future generation will have the key to success in life. So I would like to emphasise the point that computer education should be introduced in all the classes even in the rural areas. This would facilitate our children to have access to better things in life.

The Union Ministry of Agriculture is about to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras all over the country. They intend to provide vocational training in cattle rearing, poultry farming, operating piggery units, etc. To impart such training, the trainees from the rural areas need to have basic education.

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* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Through this Bill, we have been discussing in this House the need to have compulsory education. It is needless to say that it must be free education, upto degree level. I have also highlighted the need to have vocational training and computer education to form part of the academic studies. I have the Union Government would agree to provide compulsory education to all our children.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in regard to the compulsory education, I do not want to reiterate the points which have already been raised here but I think that there is a confusion in regard to the education and literacy which are altogether two different things. A person may be literate but it doesn't mean that he must be an educated person as well. Without going deep into this subject, I want to assert that the education should invariably be vocation-oriented.

Regarding education system, one point is often made which seeks to incorporate some curriculum and subjects only but whether these are final-it is not so. The profession which can earn you a livelihood why it should not be included in the curriculum because it is also an education. You look at potter's occupation, can a person perform that job without being education or trained for that job? A person may say that so and so job is trifle and no education is required for that job but can anybody make pots' without having skill in that particular job? As such these trades should be the part of education. If these are included in the curriculum your objectives would be fulfilled to a great extent and a person would be deemed to be literate without having no formal education either. With these words, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on this subject.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA (Dhanduka) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for providing me an opportunity to speak on Private Member's Bill regarding compulsory Education. I want to draw your attention towards the present condition prevailing in the country in regard to the compulsory Education. We do not pay as much attention towards a child as is required. We do not pay as much regards to a teacher as is required. As a result of it, our youths have lagged behind in the field of education and now we are talking of educating them and our adults as well. I want to say that had we made education from class I to XII compulsory in the beginning itself, the education standard would not have deteriorated to this extent that we see today.

At the some time, as per the sample survey conducted sometime back by the Government it has been claimed that 52 percent youths have been made literate which is not a fact. Only 18 percent youths have been made literate so far. In terms of our annual expenditure on the spread of education in the country, we spend Rs. 160 per head annually in Karnataka for this purpose Rs. 184 in Kerala while in other States like Bihar and U.P. the expenditure under this head is quite less. Same is the State of affairs in Gujrat. I think we should make provision for more amount for this purpose if we want to spread education and make more and more people literate. Today we have opened schools in our villages but there are not teachers at all. If there are teachers, the buildings of the schools are roof less. Likewise of the school-building has roof, there are no black-boards; if there are black-boards, we do not find benches and two to three classes and accommodated in a single class room. The teacher doesn't teach there, but he ensures that no boy is going outside. We have to have vacations in the rainy-season as well in summer in these schools.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, at the same time I want to know as to what has happened about the points of uniform education raised in the meeting of the State Ministers called by the hon'ble Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please take your seat.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am just going to take my seat. But may I have only 2 minutes to conclude my speech. Please let me make a few more points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No! the time is over. Please take your seat.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are denying me only two minutes' time, while the time of lakhs of people in those parts is going waste. Young wards of poor people of the country are simply wasting their time by studying in schools and colleges. Their studies are providing no fruits because no equal opportunities exist in the field of education. Children of high-ups and I.A.S. officers are studying in Public and English medium schools and they are even sent abroad for higher education and on the other hand children belonging to poor, commaon man, tribal people and lower-grade employee are not getting the same facilities in this country and you expect the same results and standard from these children. How it is possible? Such children who didn't get the education of that much higher and good standard, how they could complete with the former category of children. Those children are destitute, hungry and unemployed. They are asking for food from you. Hence I am to make this submission that you should pay your attention to these sentiments...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur - U.P.) : Mr. Chairman Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rajput, please sit down. This is not the proper time to raise this point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are asking me to sit down. This is the matter belonging to our family...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, but this time is allotted for Private Member's Bills and discussion thereon. This is not Zero-Hour. You cannot raise your point now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had raised this matter and the Chair had ruled out that I would be intimated after half an hour ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rajput ji, Private Members' Bill has been under discussion for an hour. The Chair is not the police. Please sit down at this moment.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Chairman Sir, this is a matter involving one of my family-members and you are saying...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It's all right, but we cannot direct the Government. You are not acceding to our request. Now what ever you speak, would not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a high powered Commission was constituted on Universal education. If proceeded with its business to some extent, but I want to know whether any such commission was constituted regarding Primary education or not? If not, what decision has been taken in this regard and where does this matter stand and by when you propose to implement this proposal? I want to know this much only...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make submission...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rajput ji, you did raise this matter earlier.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : But Sir, nothing has come out so far...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I had told you that the Chair is not the Police. The Private Member's Business is still going on. This is not the Zero-hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had raised this matter at quarter past three and this is a matter involving me and my family ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is alright. Now please take your seat.

* Not Recorded.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Chairman Sir, then I have to resort to 'Dharna'...*(Interruptions)*

16.34 hrs.

At this stage Shri Ganga Charan Rajput came and sat near the Table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rajput ji, Private Members' business is going on and this time has been allotted for the same. By doing so, you are losing sympathy of the Private Members. What you are doing is not proper. Let this business be dispposed of. One cannot combel the Government.

16.35 hrs.

At this stage Shri Ganga Charan Rajput went back to his seat.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill moved by hon. Member Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, is very laudable in its objective. The aim of the Bill is to achieve the goal of universalisation of education. During the last more than four decades, both the Central Government and the State Governments have been doing their best to achieve this goal. But even then, what we find today is that it remains a distant dream.

For the realisation of that goal, the Central and State Governments had initiated some monetary and non-monetary incentives to attract the students, particularly those belonging the Backward Classes, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes to ensure their participation.

Moreover, as a supplementary support to the State Governments, the Central Government initiated some schemes, such as, Mid-day Meal, Operation Blackboard, DPEP and other special educational projects. All these, of course, resulted in increasing the enrolment of students substantially and decreasing the number of dropouts...*(Interruptions)*

Enough attention is being paid to it. But, at the same time, due to the constraint of resources, both the Central and State Governments did not hesitate to seek external aid from the World Bank, the European Community and the United Kingdom for implementation of DPEP and other special educational projects in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Several schemes have been implemented at the moment. In addition to that, the United Front Government is strongly determined to make the nation literate by 2000 AD. It reflects its determination is the basic minimum services. It has

determined to make the proposal for right to free education and formal elementary education a Fundamental Right...*(Interruptions)*

Towards that end, the Central Government has already taken some initiative. It has earmarked six per cent of the total GNP by 2000 AD for education.

Therefore, out of the enhanced amount 50 per cent would be available for primary education. The Government have also earmarked Rs. 10 crore for the establishment of Residential primary schools for the children belonging to the poorer sections of the society. Beside this, the Government have also earmarked Rs. 50 crore for construction of Residential quarters for the teachers. In order to make the proposal practicable and achieve the goal of universalisation of elementary education with the year 2000 A.D. widespread consultations are necessary with various persons at the political and educational level.

Apart from this, a meeting of the State Education Ministers and State Education Secretaries were held to review the progress of this scheme. In that conference it was recommended that a Committee should be formed with the State Education Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of State for Education for devising a time-bound action plan for this. Now, what has been the basic purpose for constituting this Committee? The Committee would examine and suggest ways for various legal, financial and administrative implications about the right to free and compulsory education becoming a Fundamental Right. All these things are being examined by the Committee. The Committee, so far, had three meetings. The final recommendations of the Committee would be available only in the month of January.

The Government, the Department of Education and the Minister of Human Resources Development are determined to introduce the Bill in the coming Budget Session of Parliament so that we might be able to achieve the goal of universalisation of the primary education. In view of these submission, I think, there is no need for passing this Bill. I, therefore, earnestly appeal to my esteemed colleague Shri Reddy to withdraw this Bill.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know, whether the Bill they are going to bring here will cover only Primary education level or it will cover Higher Secondary level.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : It would be about primary education because the Government is attaching the top most priority for universalisation of elementary education.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Very little time is left now. We have only five minutes for this Bill. So, Shri Reddy please be brief.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, we have spent five hours four discussing this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So many Members have participated in it. You should be happy.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I would not add any point. So, many hon. Members, who are intellectuals and are people with commitment, have participated and have given their unstinted and spontaneous support for this Bill which I have moved.

Sir, this is a very important Bill for the country. We must remember that India is the biggest democracy in the world. We maintain great democratic values. To maintain these democratic values, to make every citizen of our country vote properly and to strengthen our democratic system, education is very important. Every body has agreed to this and I need not repeat it. The only concern is that the assurance of the Government is of no use. For the last fifty years there has not been much progress. Of course, our Party was also in power at the Centre.

Even now the same thing is likely to happen. Therefore, this Bill should become a part of the Legislation by bringing an amendment to the Constitution of India. Population is the most burning problem of our country. But is is such a sensitive subject that we cannot force any measure by way of legislation. But education will make every man or every citizen realise that over-population is dangerous for his family and for the country as a whole. Irrespective of Party affiliation, religion, language or culture all the Members have unanimously spoken in favour of this Bill. This is histroic, unprecedented and a rare occasion when everybody has come forwarded in support of Compulsory Education Bill. With this zeal, enthusiasm, determination and inspiration everybody wants this Bill. In the same inspiration it should be passed in the House. I call upon every Member of the House to support it.

I have a great respect for Bommai Sahib. He is a versatile personality. He is a seniormost Member and a good hearted soul. Saikia Sahib is also very nice. I have got all respect for them. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, is also here. We are supporting the Government from outside. We appreciate the Government for all the good that it does and at the same time we criticise it for the bad things. This is the time for the United Front Government to show its dynamic power. The Government profess a very challenging philosophy, that is, it is committed to social reforms in the country in such a way that the entire world should feel proud of it. Therefore, this is an opportunity of them.

They should pass this legislation so that tomorrow the Finance Secretary or other Department does not come in its way.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Reddy, one minute. The time allotted for this bill is over. If the House agrees, the time limit may be extended by ten minutes. The time is over so the time limit is extended by ten minutes.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : I have discussed it with various leaders. I have brought it to the notice of hon. Speaker also. I have discussed it with the Leaders of almost all the Parliamentary Parties and everybody wants that this Bill should be passed of by voting. So, I want only voting. There is no question of giving assurance. This Government must create records. Please do not have a wrong impression. The Private Members' Bill is not a 'Tamasha', that it is just introduced and then withdrawn on the assurance of the Minister. This becomes a 'tamasha'.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : Let me say something.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Now that you have yielded, please take your seat.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I completely agree with the sentiments expressed by Shri Reddy and other Members. When we formed the Government, a Chief Ministers' Conference was called. All Party Chief Ministers were present in that conference. In that conference we unanimously decided that top priority should be given to education and by the end of the century, universal education should be there. This decision has been followed by the Minister of Education and also by the education experts. Within two weeks, the Committee is going to give its report and in the next Session we are going to bring a Bill to make primary education as a fundamental right. There is already a provision in the Directive Principles. I am thankful to Shri Reddy. He has taken the initiative and the Government agree with it. In the next Session we will bring a Bill making education as a fundamental right. Then anybody can go to court. It will be a justiciable right. If there is no school or no teacher anybody can go to the court. Therefore, I appeal to you to withdraw this Bill and make the Government act on it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barsat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate Shri S.R. Bommai for his categorical assurance.

I have got some apprehensions also. In the House, he says that education will be made a fundamental right. But he does not say specifically that there will be a Bill for giving universal compulsory free education. He simply assures that if that is not done, I am entitled to go to court. When the Government has committed to this principle, what stands in the way of coming with a direct Bill for giving universal compulsory free education?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDHAR' (Jalesar) : Sir, we were requesting for a long to grant a minute's time to us also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : They were seeking clarifications.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : We also want clarifications. Whether the committee, which has been constituted, will include educationists also? You are allocating rupees ten crore. The number of students is twenty crore. How would you do justice?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Dr. Reddy, what you have to say now? Are you withdrawing?

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Assurance from the Hon. Minister is indeed very good. We welcome it and we congratulate the Government. But, however, we should also know the time that the Bill would take in this particular matter. The next session would be only going through the necessary formalities...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Already a decision has been taken in the Chief Ministers' Conference to have universal education.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : When was it held?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : In July.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Is it before the introduction of the Bill?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : By the end of the century, there will be universal education.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Why are you particular about the end of the century? why not by the end of the year?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : No. You must have so many teachers, school buildings, etc. A practical view has to be taken. It is only three years from now...*(Interruptions)* It is time-bound. That is what I am saying. Before we go into the next century, we will complete it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, Dr. Reddy, what do you want to do now?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I would like to ask the hon. Minister that when the Government is determined

to implement this Bill, what is wrong in coming up with a legislation in the Parliament which will be an unprecedented historical event. The entire House will be adorned for giving compulsory education. The entire nation will admire you and the hon. Members of this House.

SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA : The entire theme is in the process.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : You have extended it to secondary education and higher education. It cannot be done like that. I would request you with this assurance. You please withdraw. In the next Session, it will be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Reddy, what do you want to do now? Do you withdraw?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I have no objection if the other Bills are taken up immediately. But voting for this Bill will go in the next Session.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. It is not possible. Are you withdrawing or not?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : The point is that I have a problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you are not withdrawing, I will put it to the vote.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : My point is that if you want to put for voting for bringing change in the Constitution, you must have the quorum.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, there are some parliamentary practices also, you should know all those things. Anyway, we have nothing to do with that. Are you withdrawing?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I have a problem ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to reply in one sentence. Are you withdrawing or not?

(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : What are you all saying?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister has already given an assurance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Time-bound programme would be taken up and the Bill would be coming. You please withdraw.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Either you do something or it will lapse automatically. The time is going to be over?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I would request Dr. Reddy to withdraw the Bill in view of the assurances given by the hon. Minister.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I would like to hear once again...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. This is not the system. What are you doing? Are you withdrawing it or not? In view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, are you going to withdraw it or not?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I am just asking, in case this assurance is not implemented in the next session, what will happen?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : It will be a breach of privilege. I assure you and I am equally sincere if not more sincere than you that this assurance will be implemented.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : You are very sincere. What about the Finance Department?

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this happening? Now, I will ask you to take your seat. This House cannot go on like this. Are you going to withdraw your Bill or not?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I must be given an opportunity to know it. It has been debated for more than five hours. We have spent four months on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you do not know the practice, try to know all those things.

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : You may put it to vote in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If it is not withdrawn, it will be put to vote. You please withdraw it otherwise the discussion is going to lapse.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Nothing will happen to me. The point is that the entire country and the entire House is interested. Now, the Minister has given me a categorical assurance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I am gong to put it to vote. If you are going to withdraw, then tell that you are going to withdraw. This is not the practice followed in this House. You cannot take so much liberty from the Chair.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : The Minister has given me a categorical assurance that it will be implemented in the next Session. If it is not implemented, then a Privilege Motion can be brought against him. On that assurance of the hon. Minister, I am withdrawing it.

I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for free and compulsory education upto higher secondary level to all children throughout the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for free and compulsory education upto higher secondary level to all children throughout the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I withdraw the Bill.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the Minister for parliamentary affairs and the Minister for Home are present here in the House A few moments back when the hon'ble Deputy Speaker was in the Chair. Shri Ganga Charan Rajput had made a special mention and he had raised this issue. Now, if you have to say anything else, you may say.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : At that time I was not present in the House. The issue which he had raised shall be brought to the notice of the hon'ble Home Minister and he might take any action if he so desired.

16.58 hrs.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS BILL

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the creation of a Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

16.59 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

Sir, today I have moved this Bill for the fulfilment of aspiration and desire o the people of Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands. In 1947, our country achieved Independence. Every year we observe Independence Day. This year we are observing the 50th year of the Constituent Assembly. But after 49 years of Independence, the aspiration and desire of the people of Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands, where there are 38 big, medium and small Islands, have not yet been fulfilled.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, a number of times in this very House, a demand was voiced by the various sections of the people that Andaman & Nicobar Islands should also have a Legislative Assembly. A demand was also made by the Members of this House, a number of times, that Andaman & Nicobar also be given the Statehood.

The demand was made when this House unanimously passed the Delhi State Bill. An assurance was given when the matter was raised by us, particularly by the Member representing Andaman & Nicobar Islands for the last six terms, Shri Manoranjan Bhakta. At that time, we were assured that Andaman & Nicobar Islands would also be given the Statehood. That was in the year 1991, when elections were held in Delhi, the Assembly was constituted and a State Government was formed in Delhi. It is functioning for the last three years. But the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands are yet to get a Statehood or an Assembly.

Why are we asking Statehood for Andaman & Nicobar Islands? It is not only for a Legislative Assembly but it is the experience of the people after the Predesh Council started functioning since 1981. Their experience is that there is no proper representation of the people; the voice of the people, the demand of the people, the aspirations of the people and the desire of the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands are not properly attended to.

I congratulate the hon. Speaker, who took the initiative, when he was Minister of State for Home. He took the initiative, at least, to give a little representation so that adequate power to the Pradesh Council was given. At that time, we were told that this is not the final thing; that this was a step towards a Legislative Assembly.

Fifteen years have already lapsed since the Pradesh Council was set up when this House and the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands were told by the Government of India that the Pradesh Council is not the final thing. It is a step to have State Assembly in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Since 1981 when the Pradesh Council started functioning, till now the demand of the people remains unheeded. It remains unheeded for the last 15 years. It is because Andaman and Nicobar Islands are far away from the main-land. It is because it takes several hours to reach the Andamans through sea. That is why, I made a proposal on the floor of the House to have a leeway with Andaman so as to bring those islands closer to the main land. I made this proposal and a number of Members also supported my proposal. From this feeling, the Feeling of Alienation must be there.

To achieve that, some mechanism has to be worked out and for that closer Centre-State relations have to be developed. To have closer Centre-State relations, a mechanism has to be developed. For this, there must be a State Assembly like Delhi, Pondicherry and Like other small States like Goa.